

THE MESSAGE

Official Communication of President Cleveland to the Second Session of the 50th Congress.

The Congress of the United States assembled at 12 o'clock Monday, Dec. 3, for the second session of the 50th Congress. An unusually large number of Senators were present, and the galleries were filled with spectators.

In the House the attendance was also exceedingly large, and long before the business of the session commenced Members were on the floor shaking hands and either congratulating fellow-Members or condoling with them. The galleries were crowded.

The message of President Cleveland being the first business in order after the opening prayer in both Houses but little was done except to listen to the reading of the message, the synopsis of which follows:

"To the Congress of the United States: As you assemble for the discharge of the duties you have assumed as the representatives of a free and generous people, your meeting is marked by an interesting and impressive incident. With the expiration of the present session of the Congress, the first century of our constitutional existence as a Nation will be completed. Our survival for 100 years is not sufficient to assure us that we no longer have dangers to fear in the maintenance, with all its promised blessings, of a Government founded upon the freedom of the people. The time rather admonishes us to soberly inquire whether in the past we have always closely kept in the center of safety, and whether we have before us a way plain and clear which leads to happiness and perpetuity."

In those days combinations and monopolies were unknown, and aggregations of capital were avoided or restrained. The power and glitter of Governments less free offered no temptation and presented no delusion to the plain people who, side by side, in friendly competition, sought the enrichment and dignity of man, for the solution of the problem of free Government, and for the achievement of the grand destiny awaiting the land which God had given them.

After a century of progress and prosperity, our cities have become the abiding places of wealth and luxury, and our manufactures yield wealth never dreamed of before. The President then refers to the Constitution, and says that only by a strict adherence to this fundamental law can the Nation exist; that equal and exact justice to all citizens (of which he boasts) must be administered to all citizens alike, and that the Government must be bound to the American people to deal with all classes alike. In the early days of the Republic this bond was fully insisted upon, and every citizen was assured that he would be accounted for in his toil, and would be secure in all his rights.

Crowds of people have flocked from the country to the cities thinking to become rich, and consequently poverty, crime, and degradation have become a fact of life. The President then refers to the Constitution, and says that only by a strict adherence to this fundamental law can the Nation exist; that equal and exact justice to all citizens (of which he boasts) must be administered to all citizens alike, and that the Government must be bound to the American people to deal with all classes alike. In the early days of the Republic this bond was fully insisted upon, and every citizen was assured that he would be accounted for in his toil, and would be secure in all his rights.

Surplus and Tariff. Instead of limiting the tribute drawn from our citizens to the necessities of the national administration, the Government persists in exacting from the substance of the people millions, which unapplied and useless lie dormant in its Treasury. This flagrant injustice and this breach of faith and of the sacred trust reposed in the Government by the people, the President says, is a danger to the Nation.

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Interests of the Working Classes. The President then refers to the Constitution, and says that only by a strict adherence to this fundamental law can the Nation exist; that equal and exact justice to all citizens (of which he boasts) must be administered to all citizens alike, and that the Government must be bound to the American people to deal with all classes alike. In the early days of the Republic this bond was fully insisted upon, and every citizen was assured that he would be accounted for in his toil, and would be secure in all his rights.

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American labor. The cause for which the battle is waged is comprised within lines clearly and distinctly defined. It should never be considered a too easy task to support claims against the Government, and gratuities in the form of pensions are granted upon no other ground than the needy condition of the applicant or for reasons less valid.

He also criticizes Congress for its failure to do many things which he thinks ought to be done. Among these are the amendments of the laws relating to public lands; of those relating to the management of the Indians; the erection of prisons for the confinement of United States convicts, and of a Postoffice at Washington. He says in this connection:

"A revision of our pension laws could easily be made, which would rest upon just principles and provide for every worthy applicant. But while our general pension laws remain as they are, hundreds of thousands of private pensions are annually passed, which are the sources of unjust discrimination and popular demoralization."

He reasserts the old Democratic idea of States rights, and quotes Gen. Jackson as a supporter. Congratulates the country upon the maintenance of peace at home and abroad. Regrets that the fisheries dispute is not yet settled, and that the treaty for the cession of this portion to the Senate, because of the rejection of the treaty which the State Department had carefully prepared.

The Sackville episode is spoken of as an occasion for a deeply respectable nature, and an invasion of the purely domestic affairs, and essential sovereignty of the Government to which the envoy was accredited.

Our relations with France, China, Japan, Central America, Hawaii, Mexico, and South America are mentioned, and he announces with sincere regret that Hayti has again become the theater of insurrection, disorder and bloodshed.

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The expenses attending the maintenance and operation of the Pension Bureau during that period was \$2,382,524.47, making the entire expenditure of the Bureau \$32,038,386.57, being 21 per cent of the gross income, and nearly 31 per cent of the total expenditures of the Government during the year.

"I am thoroughly convinced that our general pension laws should be revised and adjusted to meet, as far as possible in the light of our experience, all meritorious cases. The fact that 102 different rates of pensions are paid cannot, in my opinion, be made consistent with justice to the pensioners or to the Government; and the numerous private pension bills that are passed, predicated upon the imperfections of general laws, will increase in many cases existing inequality and injustice, lead additional cases to the recommendation for a revision of the general laws on this subject."

"The laxity of ideas prevailing among a large number of our people regarding pensions is becoming every day more marked. The principles upon which they should be granted are in danger of being altogether ignored, and already pensions are often claimed because the applicants are as much entitled as other successful applicants rather than upon any disability resulting from military or naval service. If the establishment of vicious precedents be continued, if the granting of pensions be not divorced from partisan and other unworthy and irrelevant considerations, and if the honorable name of veteran unfairly becomes by this means but another term for one who constantly clamors for the aid of the Government, there is danger that injury will be done to the fame and patriotism of many whom our citizens all delight to honor, and that a prejudice will be aroused unjust to meritorious applicants for pensions."

The President is very hopeful for the future of the sugar-making, and says:

"During the past four years the process of diffusion, as applied to the manufacture of sugar from sorghum and sugar-cane, has been introduced into this country and fully perfected by the experiments carried on by the Department of Agriculture. This process is now universally considered to be the most economical one, and it is through it that the sorghum sugar industry has been established upon a basis and on a scale of its future development. The adoption of this diffusion process is also extending in Louisiana and other sugar-producing parts of the country, and will doubtless be the only method employed for the extraction of sugar from the cane."

The message concludes as follows:

"The consciousness that I have presented but an imperfect statement of the condition of the Nation, and that I have omitted no fact that anything ought to be known and appreciated by the Congress, upon whom rests the responsibility of intelligent legislation in behalf of a great Nation and a confiding people."

"As public servants we shall be glad to get well if we constantly guard the rectitude of our intentions, maintain unswerving our love of country, and with unselfish purpose strive for the public good."

MR. AND MRS. BOWSER. Some of Their Matrimonial Experiences.

I suppose every husband is subject to what might be called "sudden fits," and I hope every wife tries to bear up under them with philosophical patience. The other Sunday morning after minutes of waiting, Mr. Bowser had gone to his room to get ready for church, he roared at Mr. (Mrs. Bowser) over the banister:

"Mrs. Bowser, are you the woman of the house or only a lady boarder?"

"Why, dear?"

"Don't you dear me, Mrs. Bowser! If I pretended to be a housekeeper I'd look after things once in a while!"

"Anything wrong?"

"Anything wrong? Do I waste my breath in talking when everything is all right?"

"What is it?" I asked as I reached the head of the stairs.

He held a clean shirt in one hand, and with the other he pointed to it with a dramatic flourish and whispered:

"Buttons!"

"Buttons—how?"

"Not a solitary button on this shirt, and yet you find time to gad down town every day. That's the kind of a wife you are!"

"Mr. Bowser, do you mean shirt buttons?"

"Do I! You don't suppose I am looking for overcoat buttons, do you? You put a shirt button on your shirts for 10 years. You and all others use collar buttons. Your collar buttons are in the shirt you have on."

It struck him like a heap. He saw how he had trapped himself, but went to his room, muttering:

"That's it! She always has an excuse ready for everything."

One casual hot day in July he spoke about changing his socks after his bath, and I told him in the plainest of English that he would find clean ones in his lowest bureau drawer. That night he came home and said:

"Can you tell me what day during the next month you will have two minutes to spare?"

"Why?"

"Because, if you ever get better, perhaps you can devote a few minutes to changing the holes in my socks. I've had to limp around all the afternoon on that account."

"I can't be!"

"Oh, no! You are such a model housekeeper that it can't be, for I know you look here!"

He pulled off his shoes and lo! he had on his heavy winter socks, every thread worn. There were two or three holes, but they were not to be darned until fall, of course.

"Mr. Bowser, where did you get those socks?"

"Out of the trunk in the clothes-press, of course."

"And you go and put on January socks in July. You have six pairs of clean cotton socks in the lower drawer of the bureau."

"I'll bet you \$10,000 there isn't even one pair there! I looked through every drawer five times over."

I took him up and showed him the socks, counting them out pair by pair, and he looked at me very seriously and observed:

"Yes, I saw them, but I don't dare take them. I looked for 'em? How easy for you to have sneaked up and placed 'em here an hour ago!"

He had some wearing apparel which he said I might sell to buy some toys for the baby. I got the clothes and went through every pocket twice over. In one of the coats I found a receipt bill for \$35 worth of lumber, and I laid it on Mr. Bowser's desk. A man came for the clothes and money and away they went, later when Mr. Bowser came home, I told him of my bargain.

"You got just what he would have paid me," he replied, and the subject was dropped for half an hour, and then all of a sudden he jumped up and exclaimed:

"You've finally done it, just as I expected you would!"

"Done what?"

"I remember that I left a valuable paper in that brown coat. It was a receipted lumber bill, and they may send the bill again any day."

I looked in the pockets.

"Oh, yes, you looked! You looked just like any other wife who was in a hurry to get the clothes out of the house and the money in her hand, with two of 'em!"

I went and got the receipt and asked him if that was the one. He grudgingly admitted that it was, and added:

returned it. I must reward him for his honesty."

It was only three nights ago that Mr. Bowser took \$5 from his wallet and handed it to me with the remark:

"The man won't probably come with the coat until after I have gone in the morning. Take this and pay him."

Next morning he sat down to breakfast looking so very sober that I asked:

"Are you sick, Mr. Bowser?"

"I ought to be. When people are robbed they are generally made sick."

"Have you been robbed?"

"I have."

"Last night?"

"For mercy's sake! But did some one get into our house?"

"I do not know. When I went to bed last night I had \$55 in my wallet. This morning I have only \$50."

"You don't say!"

"It seems very queer to me, Mrs. Bowser. If you want money why don't you ask for it?"

"You don't think I took your money, do you?"

"It's very mysterious."

"Why, say, you gave me that five for the coat, didn't you?"

"Mr. Bowser's conscience fell just 26 inches in the next two seconds, and in his confusion he agreed that the money was now accounted for all right. However, on second thought he reversed."

"I will overlook it this time, Mrs. Bowser, but don't presume upon my good nature in future!"

THAT AWFUL QUARREL. Savage Talk Overflows the Continent—The Blood Shed Would Not Cover a Pin-Point.

The way it probably took place.

Disagreements in the statements of the Hon. Judge, formerly of Kentucky, and now of Colorado, and the honorable Senator from Kentucky, who at once smirches the face of the moon.

Senator Blackburn, in the heart of the Blue Grass region, a thousand miles from his adopted home, was apparently frantic to get at the degenerate catfish who abused me confidence, and now disputes the veracity of my story. "